

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

ACDA-10 IO-11 OMB-01 EB-07 AF-06 SAJ-01 NEA-10 /113 W

----- 061827

R 180540Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7738

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 2099

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, US, PFOR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF MY PRESS CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY
ON MARCH 12: BEGIN TEXT:

2. Q. WARREN BURR, 2UW RADIO NEWS: BACK IN DECEMBER, MR. HAR-
GROVE, YOU WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT
HERE IN AUSTRALIA MAY LEAD TO A MORE ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT
CLIMATE IN AUSTRALIA. AS FAR AS U.S. PARTICIPATION GOES, HAS
THIS PROVEN TO BE THE CASE, AND IF SO, IS IT LIKELY TO CONTINUE?

A. WELL, I THINK IT CERTAINLY PROVED TO BE THE CASE BECAUSE
THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT WERE DONE BY THE GOVERN-
MENT. I HAVE IN FAIRNESS TO PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS TO SAY THAT
SOME OF THESE THINGS HAD BEGUN DURING THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT,
SUCH THINGS AS NOT HOLDING COMPLETELY ARBITRARILY TO THE 50-50
GUIDELINES IN CONSIDERATION OF AD HOC CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I BE-
LIEVE THAT THIS PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS INDICATING THAT IT IS
GOING TO CONSIDER EXCEPTIONS AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE
MATTER OF PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONCEPT TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF
MINERAL AND OIL RESOURCES; I THINK THE PROSPECTS ARE MUCH
IMPROVED. NOW, WHETHER IT IS GOING TO CONTINUE OR NOT,
OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO SEE, BUT I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT
THAT IT WOULD. I HAVE HOPES THAT IT WILL.

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Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, PAUL LOCKYER, ABC NEWS: HOW DO YOU REACT

TO THE REITERATION BY MR. FRASER IN ROTORUA YESTERDAY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ANZUS TREATY?

A. WELL, I THINK THE ANZUS TREATY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT MR. FRASER CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO AUSTRALIA AND TO NEW ZEALAND ALSO. THE ANZUS TREATY IS ONE OF A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF SUCH TREATIES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO. THE OTHER ONE, OF COURSE, IS NATO, ONE OF THE BIG ONES, AND THE NATO AND ANZUS TREATIES ARE BASIC PRECEPTS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES WILL CERTAINLY UNDERTAKE TO FULFILL ALL OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER IT.

Q. WELL, MR. FRASER ALSO SAID IN ROTORUA THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN LEFT TOO MUCH ALONE LATELY BY THE ALLIES. WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

A. WELL, I DON'T KNOW PARTICULARLY WHAT MR. FRASER WAS COMMENTING ON. I THINK HE MAY HAVE HAD REFERENCE TO ANGOLA, WHERE WE WERE CERTAINLY -- WE FELT A LITTLE LONESOME AT TIMES, BUT I DON'T THINK IN TERMS OF OUR TREATY RELATIONSHIPS AND CERTAINLY NOT IN RESPECT TO ANZUS, THAT WE HAVE BEEN, THAT WE HAVE FELT LEFT ALONE, NO.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, MY NAME IS WARWICK BLOOD, ABC CURRENT AFFAIRS RADIO. DO YOU SEE ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TO THE ANZUS TREATY BETWEEN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND THE FRASER GOVERNMENT NOW?

A. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE, BASIC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ANZUS TREATY, NO. I THINK THAT PERHAPS THERE IS A LITTLE BIT BETTER PERCEPTION ON THE PART OF THIS GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE ANZUS TREATY AND I'M THINKING PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE NECESSITY FOR A REASONABLY STRONG NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IN DIEGO GARCIA. THIS IS ONE OF THE INSTANCES. FROM EVERYTHING THAT I UNDERSTAND, THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT ALSO FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT THE ANZUS TREATY WAS A STRONG BUTTRESSING OF THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF AUSTRALIA.

Q. HOW DO YOU SEE THE AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC ROLE AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY DIEGO GARCIA?

A. WELL, DIEGO GARCIA IS A RELATIVELY SMALL PART OF THE OVERALL BASICALLY. THE UNITED STATES, OF COURSE, IS DIRECTLY ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE WORLD. IF IT IS GOING TO

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MAINTAIN A STRONG PRESENCE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND IF IT IS GOING TO UNDERTAKE TO HELP AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND PROVIDE FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD WE NEED TO HAVE SOMETHING APPROACHING HOME IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. AND I THINK AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BY VIRTUE OF THEIR LOCATION, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR CULTURAL INHERITANCE, AND BY VIRTUE OF THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH THEM IN THE PAST, PROVIDE A PARTNER-

SHIP WITH US IN MAINTAINING THIS STABILITY THAT IS UNIQUE
AND THAT WE ABSOLUTELY NEED, QUITE ESSENTIAL TO US.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, GOERGE NEGUS, ABC TELEVISION ("THIS
DAY TONIGHT"). I WAS WONDERING WHETHER YOUR GOVERNMENT
HAS REACTED AT ALL TO REPORTED COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENTS
SUCH AS THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT DIDN'T IN FACT WELCOME
MR. FRASER'S STATEMENTS THAT THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN
THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND BUILT UP.

A. WELL, WE DON'T EXPECT NECESSARILY FOR EVERYBODY IN
THE WORLD TO AGREE WITH WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WE UNDER-
STAND THE ASPIRATIONS, THE DESIRES OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE.
I THINK WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM BUT YOU KNOW WE HAVE A
SAYING IN THE UNITED STATES YOU MAY HAVE HERE TOO: "IT
TAKES TWO TO TANGO", AND WE CAN'T TANGO TO A NUCLEAR-
FREEDOM OR A FREEDOM FROM ANY SORT OF WEAPONS OR ANY SORT
OF ARMADA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IF THE OTHER SIDE ISN'T
GOING TO DO IT TOO. I THINK THAT'S THE WHOLE PROBLEM. IF
THE OTHER SIDE WOULD DO IT, THEN I THINK WE WOULD BE PER-
FECTLY WILLING TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER CAME OUT BUT WE'RE
GOING TO DO IT FROM A POSITION OF EQUALITY AND
STRENGTH RATHER THAN FROM A POSITION OF WEAKNESS. NOW
SUCH STATEMENTS AS HAVE COME OUT OF INDIA SIMPLY REPRESENT,
I THINK, A NATURAL ASPIRATION THAT THE WORLD SHOULD BE FREE
OF ANY TENSION AND CONFLICT. WE'D LIKE TO HAVE THAT, TOO.

Q. RUSS STREET, CHANNEL 7 NATIONAL NEWS: DO YOU SEE A CON-
TINUING IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AMERICA
AND AUSTRALIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT
LAST DECEMBER?

A. WELL, I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE
TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH AUSTRALIA AND THAT THEY
WILL IMPROVE. AS I MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, SOME OF THE THINGS
THAT ARE NOW COMING TO GREATER FRUITION UNDER THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT HAD STARTED UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND
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I THINK OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT FROM
WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DIFFICULT START AT FIRST HAD DEVELOPED
INTO A VERY SATISFACROTY RELATIONSHIP. NOW WE WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THOSE IMPROVE AND CONTINUE TO BE AS GOOD AS
THEY HAVE BEEN AND I HAVE EVERY EXPECTION THAT MR.
FRASER'S GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO SEE THAT THEY DO.

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SAJ-01 IO-11 ACDA-10 OMB-01 EB-07 AF-06 NEA-10 /113 W

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R 180540Z MAR 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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Q. YOU MENTIONED EARLIER THAT AMERICA WOULD LIKE TO SEE AUSTRALIA APPROACHING SOMETHING LIKE HOME IN THE DEFENSE ROLE. HOW FAR HAS AUSTRALIA GOT TO GO BEFORE ITS HOME TO THE AMERICANS IN THIS AREA?

A. WELL, I THINK IT'S A LONG WAY TOWARD BEING THAT NOW IN THE SENSE THAT WE FEEL AT HOME HERE. WE DO WANT TO FEEL THAT IT'S A PLACE WHERE WE CAN COME FOR LIBERTY FOR OUR NAVAL PERSONNEL. I MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY THAT WE REALLY WERE INTERESTED IN RECREATION AND REST PORTS AND I LATER SAW THAT ONE OF THE PERTH PAPERS HAD SAID THAT PERTH WAS GOING TO BECOME THE NEW LAS VEGAS SINCE THE UNITED STATES WAS GOING TO COME IN AND MAKE A REST AND RECREATION PORT OUT OF IT. THAT'S A LITTLE MORE THAN I MEANT. ALL I MEAN IS THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE A PLACE WHEN OUR PEOPLE, OUR FORCES ARE AWAY FROM HOME AS LONG AS THEY ARE, FOR THE MEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES TO COME AND HAVE SOMETHING APPROACHING A HOME ATMOSPHERE, WHERE THEY CAN FEEL AT HOME, WHERE WE CAN REFURBISH SHIPS, IF NECESSARY RESUPPLY THEM, BUT THAT'S THE SORT OF THING I THINK AND WE HAVE TO ALSO, I BELIEVE, FEEL THAT IN AUSTRALIA WE HAVE A SYMPATHETIC POINT OF VIEW TOWARD WHAT WE, WHAT OUR ASPIRATIONS AND GOALS ARE.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THAT?

A. YES, I THINK WE DO HAVE THAT IN AUSTRALIA. I THINK WE OBVIOUSLY ARE GOING TO DIFFER ON INDIVIDUAL MATTERS AND

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WE ARE GOING TO DIFFER ON TECHNIQUES, HOW TO GO ABOUT IT, BUT I THINK THE ASPIRATIONS AND GOALS OF AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN RESPECT

TO WORLD STABILITY, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND ALL THE THINGS WHICH ARE IN OUR HERITAGES, I THINK THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES SEE PRETTY MUCH EYE TO EYE ON IT.

Q. (PAUL LOCKYER). WHAT ABOUT SPECIFIC MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS IN AUSTRALIA? DO THE AMERICANS WANT TO SEE A BIGGER FOOTING IN THAT AREA?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY NECESSITY OR DESIRE AT THIS TIME TO INCREASE ANY MILITARY PRESENCE IN AUSTRALIA. WE ARE PARTICIPATING AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE IN SOME JOINT ACTIVITIES THAT ARE VERY ESSENTIAL TO OUR OPERATIONS AND OUR ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE AREA.

Q. STEVE JOEL, CHANNEL 9. SIR, IN THE AFTERMATH OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, HAS THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BEEN WEAKENED?

A. THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS OBVIOUSLY A GREAT DEAL WEAKER THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, AND I THINK WE ARE TAKING A RATHER REALISTIC LOOK AT IT. WE ARE REAPPRAISING WHAT IT OUGHT TO BE.

Q. I MEAN IN THE AUSTRALIAN CONCEPT.

A. WELL, THE AUSTRALIANS, OF COURSE, WERE A VERY GREAT SUPPORT TO WHAT WE WERE DOING IN VIETNAM. THERE WAS DISSENTION IN AUSTRALIA WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WE WERE DOING AND WITH RESPECT TO WHAT AUSTRALIA ITSELF WAS DOING, JUST AS THERE WAS DISSENTION IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT ERA IS NOW PAST. WE ARE EMBARKED UPON A NEW ERA, A NEW ERA OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, A NEW ERA WITH RESPECT TO OUR PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I DON'T THINK THAT THE AUSTRALIAN RELATIONSHIP THERE IS GOING TO BE THE SAME AS IT WAS IN VIETNAM.

Q. (GEORGE NEGUS). SIR, IN THAT CONTEXT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE AMERICAN SITUATION AND PRESENCE IN THAILAND.

A. THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THAILAND. THE UNITED STATES IS PHASING OUT THE BASES IN THAILAND. WE WILL VERY SHORTLY, I THINK HAVE TURNED OVER ALL THE BASES THAT WE HAD THERE IN THAILAND TO THAI CONTROL. WE WILL MAINTAIN A RESIDUAL FORCE, I THINK, OF MINIMAL NUMBERS, AND IT WILL BE PRIMARILY UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR COMMUNICATIONS PURPOSES.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, JEBBIE PHILLIPS, CHANNEL 7, "ELEVEN A.M.". WOULD YOU SAY THAT IN LIGHT OF THIS PHASING OUT IN THAILAND THAT THE DEFENSE ROLE THAT AUSTRALIA HAS TO PLAY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD IS GOING TO BE MORE IMPORTANT ...?

A. THERE ARE CERTAIN AREAS THAT I THINK THE UNITED STATES IS QUITE HAPPY TO YIELD COMPLETELY TO AUSTRALIA. I THINK THE UNITED STATES FEELS THAT AUSTRALIA, IN RESPECT TO HER CLOSE NEIGHBORS, OUGHT TO BE THE ONE THAT CONDUCTS THE PRINCIPAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM. THIS IS FORMER AUSTRALIAN

TERRITORY, AND WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD DEFINITELY PLAY A SUB-ORDINATE ROLE THERE. I THINK PROBABLY WE FEEL THE SAME THING IN DINDONESIA SO WE ARE PERFECTLY CONTENT TO YIELD ANY LEADERSHIP IN THOSE ACTIVITIES TO AUSTRALIA.

Q. SIR, TIMOR IS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE HERE AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CRITICISMS ABOUT TH AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY DID T TAKE A STRONG ENOUGH POSITION IN TERMS OF THE TIMORESE SITUATION. DID THE UNITED STATES SPECIFICALLY NOT RESPOND TO TIMOR OR WAS THERE A FEELING THAT IT WASN T THAT CRUCIAL?

A. THE UNITED STATES RESPONDED TO TIMOR THROUGH ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND IT HAS SUPPORTED THE ACTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ACTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TASK FORCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN TIMOR. WE SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THERE CAN BE IN EAST TIMOR AN ACTIVE SELF-DETERMINATION THAT WILL ENABLE THOSE PEOPLE TO HAVE THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WANT, BUT WE ARE NOT DISPOSED TO SHOULDER IN THIS SITUATION AND ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE DECISIONS OURSELVES. WE PREFER TO MAKE THEM MULTILATERALLY THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ADVANCED WARNING ABOUT FURTHER CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN WARS OF LIBERATION. IF IN FACT THERE IS CUBAN SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN REVOLUTIONS IN RHODESIA, WHAT WILL BE THE UNITED STATES RESPONSE?

A. THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, AND I SIMPLY QUOTE HIM, THAT THE UNITED STATES REACTION TO THAT IN THIS EVENT SHOULD NOT BE INFERRED FROM WHAT THE UNITED STATES DID IN ANGOLA, THAT WE WOULD DO SOMEHTING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE DID IN ANGOLA. HE HAS BEEN ASKED NUMBERS OF TIMES WHAT THAT RESPONSE WOULD BE AND HE HAS ALWAYS SAID SOMETHING DIFFERENT

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FROM ANGOLA. NOW, I DON T KNOW WHAT IT WOULD BE EITHER AND I DON T THINK ANYBODY COULD POSSIBLY TELL WITHOUT KNOWING JUST EXACTLY WHAT THE NEW FORM OF CUBAN INTERVENTION MIGHT BE.

Q.(GEORGE NEGUS). MR. AMBASSADOR, ARE YOU ABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY FOR US THAT THERE WAS CONTACT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER BETWEEN THE AMERICAN CIA AND THE AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION OVER ALLEGED BRACH OF SECURITY THE DAY BEFORE MR. WHITLAM WAS DISMISSED.

A. I M GOING TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING COMPLETELY ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA. THIS IS A POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT S NOT JUST MY POLICY. I THINK THE REASONS FOR IT APPARENT. YOU CAN T CONFIRM OR DENY IN ONE INSTANCE WITHOUT UNDERTAKING TO CONFIRM OR DENY IN EVERY INSTANCE, AND WE DO NOT COMMENT ON IT AND THAT WILL BE TRUE WITH RESPECT TO ANY ITEMS ON NATIONAL SECURITY WITH RESPECT TO AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED STATES OR ANY INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

Q. (JEBBIE PHILLIPS.) MAY I ASK WHEN WHETHER YOU THINK
THE REVELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES NAMEING CERTAIN PEOPLE
AS ALLEGED CIA AGENTS AND REVELATIONS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES
ABROAD HAVE BEEN DAMAGING TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. THEY HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN DAMAGING TO SOME OF THE CIA
AGENTS, PARTICULARLY THE ONE IN GREECE. WHETHER IT HAS
DAMAGED THE UNITED STATES AS SUCH, I DON T BELIEVE SO.
WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HARGROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER02099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760102-0311
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760348/aaaabpwu.tel
Line Count: 340
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, (HARGROVE, JAMES W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006